U.S. Serial No.: 09/807,790

REMARKS

This reply is responsive to the Office Action mailed on March 14, 2005. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Nandikonda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,111, issued November 6, 2001) (Nandikonda). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nandikonda discloses a method in which the identification data of a program intended to be received by a set top box can be acquired on the basis of information in a first form, e.g., title information in text form. The set top box forms a data transmission connection through a modem via a landline telecommunications network to the Internet data network. A domain name server that is part of a program service provider produces an address in a second form, e.g., numerical form. The address in the second form is returned to the set top box where the set top box separates the physical parameters of the data transmission channel given in the address, wherein the set top box can start receiving the desired broadcasting.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Nandikonda fails to disclose that "the API provides the abstracted SI in a generic format" as recited in independent claims 1 and 21. Specifically independent claims 1 and 21 recite:

1.   A television set-top terminal, comprising:
a computer readable medium having computer program code means; and

8

means for executing said computer program code means to implement an Application Programming Interface (API), wherein:

the API is adapted to abstract system information (SI) in a digital television transport stream that is received by the terminal in any one of a plurality of different formats; and

the API provides the abstracted SI in a generic format that is suitable for use by an application at the terminal regardless of the specific format in which the SI is provided. (emphasis added)

21.   A method for use in a television set-top terminal for processing system information (SI) in a digital television transport stream that is received by the terminal in any one of a plurality of different formats, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer readable medium having computer program code means; and

executing said computer program code means to implement an Application Programming Interface (API), wherein:

the API is adapted to abstract the system information (SI) from any one of the plurality of different formats; and

the API provides the abstracted SI in a generic format that is suitable for use by an application at the terminal regardless of the specific format in which the SI is provided. (emphasis added)

The present invention discloses an API that allows applications that are running on a digital television terminal to recover SI from a digital TS without regard to the specific format type. The API abstracts the relevant portions of the SI to provide it in a format that is usable by different applications at the terminal. The API is adapted to abstract SI in a digital television transport stream that is received by the terminal in any one of a plurality of different formats. The API provides the abstracted SI in a generic format that is suitable for use by an application at the terminal regardless of the specific format in which the SI is provided.

In contrast, Nandikonda discloses a method in which the identification data of a program intended to be received by a set top box can be acquired on the basis of information in a first form, e.g., title information in text form. The set top box forms a data transmission connection through a modem via a landline telecommunications

9

network to the Internet data network. A domain name server that is part of a program

service provider produces an address in a second form, e.g., numerical form. The address

in the second form is returned to the set top box where the set top box separates the

physical parameters of the data transmission channel given in the address, wherein the set

top box can start receiving the desired broadcasting. (See Nandikonda, col. 11, lines 4-

52) The Examiner argues that the set top box searches the service information for a

desired service and converts the service information into a second form to retrieve the

desired service. However, Nandikonda only teaches the communication of information

from a set top box to a program service provider where a domain server at the program

service provider uses that information to provide an address to the set top box. Thus,

Nandikonda is clearly devoid of the teaching or suggestion that the API provides

abstracted SI in a generic format.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 21 are patentable

over Nandikonda. Claims 2-19 are patentable at least by virtue of depending from their

respective base claim. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over

Nandikonda in view of Evain (Evain, J.P., "The Multimedia Home Platform", EBU

Technical Review, Spring 1998, pp. 4-10). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Examiner concedes that Nandikonda fails to disclose where the API is

implemented using a plurality of different packages and different applications at the

terminal include only specific ones of the packages according to specific portions of the

10

abstracted SI that each application requires. Evain was cited in order to cure the Examiner's perceived deficiency of Nandikonda.

Evain discloses a Multimedia Home Platform. The Multimedia Home Platform (MHP) encompasses the peripherals and the interconnection of multimedia equipment via the in-home digital network.

As argued above in Section I., Nandikonda fails to teach, disclose, or suggest that "the API provides the abstracted SI in a generic format", as recited in claim 1. Evain fails to cure the deficiencies of Nandikonda as noted in Section I. As such, Applicants submit that claim 20 is patentable at least by virtue of depending from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.
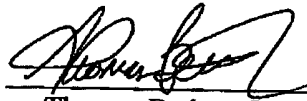
11

U.S. Serial No.: 09/807,790

Conclusion

Having fully responded to the Office action, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues arise that prevent early allowance of the above application, the examiner is invited contact the undersigned to resolve such issues.

To the extent an extension of time is needed for consideration of this response, Applicant hereby request such extension and, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 502117 for any fees associated therewith.

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Respectfully submitted,

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12